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Old Fletton Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

upon the

Sanitary Condition of the District

During the year 1962



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During the year 1962

OLD FLETTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as at 31st December, 1962)

Councillor I. HARDING (Chairman)

Mrs. B. HINCH

Mrs. A. A. SCOTCHBROOK

B. W. BROWNING

R. H. KIRBY

E. COLLINSON

R. FATHERS

K. W. WILSON

N. W. HUTCHINGS

J. R. VYSE

To the Old Fletton Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my fifth Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1962.

Old Fletton is a comparatively prosperous area, and the living standards are good. The chief industries are Brick-making, Engineering and Food Canning, and during the appropriate season sugar is prepared from sugar beet on a large scale.

The Registrar General estimates that the population is now 11,890 having increased by 180 (Mid-year estimate) over the previous year.

The health of the population has been good during the year, with no epidemics.

Freedom from Diphtheria, Poliomyelitis and Whooping Cough is due in great measure to immunisation against these diseases, and I do urge upon parents the necessity for seeing that this is done.

There were 207 live births, giving a birth rate of 17.4 per thousand population. When adjusted this becomes 17.2 which is slightly below the national average of 18.

I am glad to record that there were only two infant deaths during the year, giving an extremely low infant mortality rate (9.7). This figure will fluctuate considerably from year to year however, as the number of births is not large enough to keep it steady.

There were 102 deaths during the year, giving a crude death rate of 8.6. per thousand population. When adjusted this figure becomes 11.0 which compares favourably with a national figure of 11.9.

The main causes of death were vascular lesions of the nervous system, (usually called a stroke) 22, followed closely by cancer in one or other of its forms (21) and by coronary disease (20).

The New County Council Clinic on Whittlesey Road, Stanground came into operation in March 1962. It is well situated for serving the new Stanground building estates, and is fulfilling a service which was much needed in the area. It is giving Maternity and Child

Welfare, Immunisation, School and Dental Clinic services, and there is also a County Mental Health and Welfare worker based at these offices. This service is proving a great asset to the District having previously been supplied by staff based on Huntingdon.

Members of the Council have been most anxious that a better Chiropody service for old people should be available in the area, and I am pleased to report that arrangements have recently been made by the County with the Peterborough Old Peoples Welfare Committee for their Chiropodist to run regular monthly Clinics in the District at some convenient centre. This will start as early as can be arranged in 1963.

In conclusion I again wish to thank Members of the Council, their Officers and Staff, and my professional colleagues in the District for their help and encouragement during the year.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	3029 acres
Estimated Population (mid 1962)	11890
Density of persons per acre	3.93
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1962	3841
Rateable Value, 31/12/62	£186,877
Value of Penny Rate, 31/3/1962	£767.15.9
Live Births	207
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	17.4
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	5.3
Still-births	6
Still-births rate per 1,000 live and still-births	28.2
Total live and still-births	213
Infant deaths	2
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—total	9.7
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births	Nil
Death rate per 1,000 population	8.6

INFANT DEATHS

	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Actual Number of Deaths	2	9	6	7	4	2
Rates All Infants Per 1,000 Live Births	8.8	36.9	26.0	29.9	17.9	9.7
Deaths from Cancer (total)						21
Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus						3
Coronary Disease—angina						20
Other Heart Disease						11
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)						Nil

Comparison of rates with those of England & Wales.

	Per 1,000 Population				Per 1,000 Live Births	Per 1,000 Total Births
	Live Birth Rate	Ad-justed Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Ad-justed Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate	Still Births Rate
Old Fletton U.D.C.	17.4	17.2	8.6	11.0	9.7	28.2
England & Wales	—	18.0	—	11.9	21.4	18.1

Comparability Factor for Births	0.99
Comparability Factor for Deaths	1.28

(The Comparability Factors are figures by which the crude-birth and death rates need to be multiplied so as to find the adjusted rates. The adjusted rates are then comparable with the rates for England and Wales, or the adjusted rates of any other place in the Country.

The Registrar General calculates the factors from information available to him concerning, amongst other things, the age and sex structure of the population.)

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar-General's figures) :—

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males	Females	Totals
All Causes.	54	48	102
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	—	3
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	1	1
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases	—	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	3	6
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	—	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	—	—
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—	—
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	7	5	12
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	12	22
18. Coronary disease, angina	12	8	20
19. Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	—
20. Other heart disease	5	6	11
21. Other circulatory disease	—	1	1
22. Influenza	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	2	1	3
24. Bronchitis	1	2	3
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	4	—	4
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	—	1	1
28. Nephritis & nephrosis	—	3	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	—	—	—
32. Other defined & ill-defined diseases	3	4	7
33. Motor Vehicle accidents	1	—	1
34. All other accidents	—	—	—
35. Suicide	—	—	—
36. Homicide & operations of war	—	—	—

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Sir,

I beg to submit my report for the year ended 31st December 1962.

HOUSING.

The year saw the completion of the 1,000th dwelling owned by the Council and to mark this notable achievement the dwelling concerned, an old person's bungalow, was officially opened by the Lord Lieutenant of the County, Lord de Ramsey. The remaining seven bungalows of this small infilling development were also completed during the year.

The Council realise that the housing needs of the elderly must play an increasingly important part in their programme in view of the increasing longevity of the population, and towards the end of the year serious consideration was being given to the need for and siting of a block of flatlets for older people. These would share certain communal services including heating, bathing, and toilet facilities. It is intended that there shall be a resident warden in bell communication with each flatlet in case of emergency. This type of accommodation will fill the gap which at present exists between the elderly but still active citizen fully capable of looking after his or her own bungalow and garden, and the older person who requires a very considerable degree of physical assistance and is at present catered for by Coneygree Lodge.

Work continued during the year on the scheme for 76 houses to the west of Southfields Estate, but none was handed over during the twelve months.

During the year two Clearance Areas covering 8 houses were confirmed. One house was demolished and one closed as a result of other statutory action. Alternative accommodation was provided where necessary.

96 applications for improvement to pre-war non-parlour Council houses by the provision of a separate scullery and bathroom with W.C. were completed during the year. Over 253 houses were dealt with during the progress of this scheme and there is no doubt these alterations have been very much appreciated by the tenants concerned.

No cases of overcrowding beyond the statutory level were found during the year although it is known that several properties, mainly occupied by aliens, are very near to the high level which the legislation allows.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	2653
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	2653
(2) Total number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	9
(3) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	33
2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices —	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers excluding those dealt with by Improvement Grants	31
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—	
(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	2
(C) Proceedings under Sections 16, 17 (1), 23, 27 (1) and 35 of the Housing Act, 1957	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition or closing Orders were made.....	8
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1
(3) Number of houses closed during the year	1
(4) Number of families displaced during the year	5

(D) Proceedings under Part III of the Housing Act, 1957

CLEARANCE AREAS

(1) Number of Clearance Areas declared during the year	2
(2) Total number of houses included in (1) above	8
(3) Number of houses included by reason of unfitness for human habitation	8
(4) Number of houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	Nil
(5) Number of families displaced during the year	1
(6) Number of houses demolished during the year	Nil

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply to the district continued to be satisfactory throughout the year in quality, quantity and pressure. Over 99% of the houses in the area have an internal piped supply.

Further work on the new main laid by the Peterborough M.B.C. to the British Sugar Corporation's Central Laboratory resulted in the production of satisfactory samples, and there has been no further trouble in this respect.

Five samples of water were taken during the year and all were completely free of contamination. This is, of course, in addition to regular sampling carried out by the bulk supplying authority.

The pressure for amalgamation of water undertakings from central Government continued during the year, and it is evident that this will be maintained until such amalgamation, whether it be grouped around a Water Board or one of the existing Local Authority undertakings, takes place.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

An Inquiry was held by an Engineering Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in connection with the Council's proposals to enlarge their trunk sewer capacity and Sewage Disposal Works facilities. As a result of this Inquiry, Ministerial approval was subsequently given and the Consulting Engineers were instructed to proceed with the Contract documents.

The need to introduce heat digestion of the sewage sludge was made more pressing during the year by the granting of planning permission for the erection of a private housing estate within very close proximity to the works. This method of sludge disposal should materially reduce odours from the works, although of course it cannot eliminate them altogether.

The removal of dried sludge from the gravel beds is an unpleasant and time consuming operation which in view of the proposed increase in the number of beds and the age of the operatives concerned would have become increasingly difficult. In view of these factors the Council agreed to my suggestion that a method of sludge removal using a movable power driven conveyor running on rails above the beds should be installed as part of the new works.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

For a number of years the Council have been able to dispose of baled waste paper at a price which enabled the Authority to make a profit and at the same time pay a bonus to those of their collecting staff who wished to participate. The purchasing mill ceased operations during the year, however, and in the present overloaded state of the market it was found impossible to dispose of this material except at a loss. This resulted in a loss of income both to the Council and to the collectors concerned. I am pleased to say, however, that this has not affected the labour position and we have been fortunate in retaining the same cleaning staff. It must also be borne in mind that the primary duty of the local authority is to collect refuse and that the separation of waste paper has always slowed down this operation. With the exception of periods of staff sickness or very severe weather, we have been able to maintain a collection time of approximately one week. The Council realise, however, that with the continuing addition of further properties, further additions to the collection service will eventually be required, and the position will be carefully watched.

STREET SWEEPING.

One of the street Orderlies retired during the year on account of age, but we have been able to find and retain a suitable man in his place.

With the consent of the Council an agreement was entered into with the County Council for more local initiative in connection with snow removal. Local contractors possessing suitable labour, lorries and plant were interviewed, rates of hire agreed and a programme of priorities arranged so that work could commence immediately they were called out. This had its first trial last winter and helped materially in keeping the more important local roads free for traffic.

One of the street Orderly's duties is to keep the Public Convenience on Fletton Avenue clean, and I regret to say in connection with this building that vandalism still persists.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

The process of gradual improvement in food retailing premises has continued during the year. This, I feel, is partly as a result of pressure from the public. The new pattern of trade being set in this

industry has resulted in the erection and conversion of many older premises in the neighbouring City, and there is no doubt that the brightness and cleanliness of these new premises are making the housewife conscious of the standards which can exist in food handling shops. Informal representations have had to be made, however, concerning a few premises and these have received prompt attention.

During the year 135 tins of canned food were inspected and condemned.

TENTS, CARAVANS, SHEDS AND HOUSEBOATS.

The district is fortunate in that it has no serious caravan problem. Consent for an individual siting at an isolated farm was given during the year, but otherwise the use of fixed sites by showmen in winter constituted the only sizeable body of vans in the area.

The number of houseboats on the open stretch of the back river was reduced to three during the year, and as two of the occupying families are on the housing waiting list, it seems that we may look forward to the end of this particular nuisance in the near future.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government approved the making of the Council's third Smoke Control Order during the year, and this will have the effect of increasing the number of dwellings now within the scope of these Orders as development on the scheduled land proceeds. As this extension of smoke control areas continues the position of the Council's Southfields Housing Estate and the Oakdale Estate become more anomalous, and it is hoped that work can be commenced on the preliminary inspection and investigations necessary prior to the making of an Order in the not too distant future.

Four notices under Section 3 of the Clean Air Act 1956 giving prior notice to the Council of the applicants intention to construct new furnaces were received. Minimum heights for the stacks were calculated for and accepted by the developers concerned.

RODENT CONTROL.

Routine work has been carried out both on individual properties and on building sites. These latter, due to the exposure of drainage work involved and the availability of shelter and food supplies can often become severely infested during the time an Estate is in course of construction.

NUISANCES.

Abated as a result of informal action	.....	.....	.....	31
Abated as a result Statutory action	.....	.....	.....	3
Offensive trades (Health Act 1936)	.....	No. established	.....	Nil
		No. of inspections	.....	Nil

DISINFESTATION.

Rats and Mice.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

No. of houses inspected	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	35
No. of houses treated and cleared	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22

DISINFECTION.

Cases of Infectious Diseases reported	.....	.....	.....	.....	33
No. of Inspections	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Premises disinfected :—	(a) Tuberculosis	.....	.....	.....	1
	(b) Others	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Schools disinfected	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the District.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937-1959

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories without power	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Factories with power	24	33	Nil	Nil
Other Premises	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases in which defects were found		Nil		

Outworkers. There are no outworkers in the District.

L. DEARDEN,

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1962.

Total Deaths	|	|	|	|	1	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
Cases admitted to Hospital	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
65 & upwards	|	|	|	|	1	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
45 — 65	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
35 — 45	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
20 — 35	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	2	|	|	|	|
15 — 20	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	2	|	|	|	|
10 — 15	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	2	|	|	|	|
5 — 10	|	|	7	|	|	1	1	|	2	|	|	|	|
4 — 5	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	1	|	|	|	|
3 — 4	|	|	|	|	|	2	|	|	1	|	|	|	|
2 — 3	|	|	1	|	|	1	|	|	|	|	1	|	|
1 — 2	|	|	|	|	|	1	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
under 1 year	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
TOTAL	|	|	8	|	|	1	5	1	10	|	|	1	|
DISEASE	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

Erysipelas	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Smallpox	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Scarlet Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Diphtheria	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pneumonia	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Measles	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Whooping Cough	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Poliomyelitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Jaundice	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Puerperal Pyrexia	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Meningococcal Meningitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Food Poisoning	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dysentery	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

Tuberculosis.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
5—15.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25.....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45.....	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
45—55.....	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65.....	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 & upwards.....	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTAL:—	5	—	—	2	3	—	—	1

I am,

Your obedient servant,

PHILIP V. CANT,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Health Clinic,
Whittlesey Road,
Stanground,
Nr. Peterborough.
Tel. Peterborough 68010

